

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 20, 2020

Seema Verma, MPH  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 445-G  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

We write to urge your immediate review and approval of California's request for additional Section 1135 flexibilities related to Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Time is of the essence to ensure our state is able to continue to provide care and protect the public from COVID-19.

The California Department of Health Care Services formally submitted their request for Section 1135 waiver flexibilities on March 16, 2020, just three days after the President formally declared a national emergency. The waiver includes a number of proposals that were carefully crafted in response to the new realities of the ongoing pandemic, including providing increased flexibility for telehealth and virtual communications, allowing providers to be reimbursed for the anticipated expansion of services at sites where services are not currently offered, and granting expenditure authority related to temporary housing for homeless individuals impacted by COVID-19.

In light of the order issued yesterday by Governor Newsom directing Californians statewide to shelter in place, there is a heightened sense of urgency for this waiver to be granted with all deliberate speed. While we can certainly appreciate that the ongoing national emergency has overwhelmed government operations, the continued uncertainty surrounding the status of the state's request risks undermining our state's response. Without this waiver, health care providers cannot offer and be reimbursed for day-to-day care, thereby risking their ability to keep their doors open during this public health emergency. Our health care providers need to be focused on limiting the spread of COVID-19.

We call on you to give the same urgent attention you have given to other states' Section 1135 waivers requests and approve California's Section 1135 submission quickly. A quick and coordinated response is urgently needed to meet the extreme demands of this public health crisis.

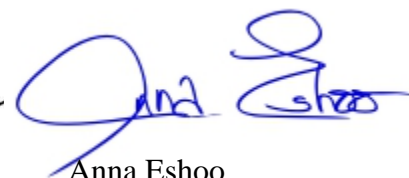
Sincerely,



Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.  
*Member of Congress*



Judy Chu  
*Member of Congress*



Anna Eshoo  
*Member of Congress*

Zoe Lofgren  
*Member of Congress*

Grace F. Napolitano  
*Member of Congress*

Mike Thompson  
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Harley Rouda  
*Member of Congress*

Mike Levin  
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*Member of Congress*

Ami Bera, M.D.  
*Member of Congress*

Barbara Lee  
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Jimmy Gomez  
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Pete Aguilar  
*Member of Congress*

Salud O. Carbajal  
*Member of Congress*

Julia Brownley  
*Member of Congress*

Adam B. Schiff  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
*Member of Congress*

John Garamendi  
*Member of Congress*

J. Luis Correa  
*Member of Congress*

Lucille Roybal-Allard  
*Member of Congress*

Norma Torres  
*Member of Congress*

Alan Lowenthal  
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Ted W. Lieu  
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Josh Harder  
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TJ Cox  
*Member of Congress*

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
*Member of Congress*

Jim Costa  
*Member of Congress*

Jerry McNerney  
*Member of Congress*

Jimmy Panetta  
*Member of Congress*